

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

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TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247544

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, KS, PFOR

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 30TH UNGA: BANGLADESH

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM CALLED IN BANGLADESH AMBAS-
SADOR DESIGNATE SADDIQI ON OCTOBER 16 TO DISCUSS OUR PO-
SITION ON KOREAN QUESTION.

2. BUFFUM EMPHASIZED THAT THIS ISSUE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT
TO THE US OF OVER 100 ITEMS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE UNGA
THIS YEAR. HE REVIEWED OUR EARLY ASSOCIATION WITH KOREA'S
DESIRE TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT AND NOTED THAT OUR CONTINUED
MILITARY PRESENCE THERE REFLECTS OUR DIRECT NATIONAL AND
SECURITY INTEREST IN THE COUNTRY. BUFFUM SAID HE ASSUMED
SADDIQI WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE COMPETING RESOLUTIONS ON
KOREA BUT WISHED TO POINT OUT THAT OUR OFFER, FOR EXAMPLE,
TO HOLD A CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED INCLUDING THE
ROK WAS EQUITABLE AND TOOK ACCOUNT OF FACT THAT NO COUNTRY
SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM NEGOTIATION ON ITS OWN FUTURE WHILE
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ALGERIAN RESOLUTION DENIED ROK SUCH POSSIBILITY, WE INSIST

THAT ROKG SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING THE DESTINY OF KOREA, AND WE HOPED THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT, HAVING BEEN INVOLVED ITSELF IN ISSUES OF THIS KIND RECENTLY, WOULD UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION.

3. BUFFUM ADDED THAT THE POTENTIAL OF RENEWED HOSTILITIES IN KOREA REMAINED OF CONCERN. FOR THIS REASON, HE SAID, IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT EVEN THOUGH WE ARE PREPARED TO ABOLISH THE UN COMMAND TO MEET THE DESIRE OF MANY UN MEMBERS TO END UN INVOLVEMENT IN KOREA.

4. THE US HOPES BANGLADESH WILL SUPPORT OUR SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF ITS KNOWN PREFERENCE TO ADOPT A NEUTRAL POSTURE ON SUCH MATTERS, WE TRUST BANGLADESH WOULD AT A MINIMUM TAKE A CONSISTENTLY EVEN-

HANDED POSITION ON THE KOREAN RESOLUTIONS INCLUDING PROCEDURAL ONES WHICH ARE OFTEN AS IMPORTANT AS SUBSTANTIVE ONES. IN THIS CONNECTION, BUFFUM EMPHASIZED, WE WERE PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED AT BANGLADESH'S POSITION ON THE INSCRIPTION OF THE KOREAN ITEMS IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 17. USG CONSIDERED SUCH ACTION TOTALLY INCONSISTENT WITH ITS PRONOUNCED STANCE OF NEUTRALITY.

5. POSITIONS TAKEN ON KOREAN ITEM, BUFFUM SAID, WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THIS WAS STATED IN ADVANCE OF THE UNGA'S CONSIDERATION OF THE KOREAN ITEM SO THERE WOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING LATER.

6. BUFFUM THEN REVIEWED THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPECTED PROCEDURAL ISSUE ON PRIORITY FOR OUR RESOLUTION AND SAID IT MAY COME UP EARLY IN THE DEBATE BEGINNING NEXT WEEK. THIS CONSTITUTES IMPORTANT MATTER OF FOLLOWING ESTABLISHED GENERAL ASSEMBLY RULES OF PROCEDURE WHEREBY OUR RESOLUTION SHOULD CLEARLY BE ACCORDED PRIORITY SINCE IT WAS SUBMITTED SEVERAL WEEKS EARLIER THAN THE OTHER ONE. THUS WE URGE THAT BANGLADESH SUPPORT US AT LEAST ON THIS MOTION. BUFFUM IF SADDIQI CONCLUDED BY ASKING SADDIQI TO ADVISE HIS GOVERNMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPTH OF OUR CONCERNS ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH HE REPEATED CONSTITUTES MOST IMPORTANT ITEM TO US IN UN THIS FALL.

7. SADDIQI LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND THEN RESPONDED SAYING THAT, IF POSSIBLE, BANGLADESH WOULD LIKE TO BE NEUTRAL ON THIS ISSUE. AS A MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP AND BECAUSE NORTH KOREA IS NOW ALSO A MEMBER, BANGLADESH MUST VIEW THIS ISSUE FROM THAT PERSPECTIVE. HOWEVER, AS FOR

THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION, SADDIQI STATED THAT QUOTE EVEN WITHOUT CONSULTING MY GOVERNMENT I BELIEVE I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE CAN SUPPORT YOU END QUOTE.

8. HE ADDED THAT HE WILL INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT OF THIS MEETING AND ADVISE THAT US VIEWS BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

9. SADDIQI WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. KARIM, COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY (WIDOW OF FORMER CHARGE OF BANGLADESH EMBASSY) WHO TOOK NOTES AND INDICATED A REPORT WOULD BE SENT TO DACCA SOON. INGERSOLL

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